From:	RICHARD GONCI
To:	Kelley, Craig; minister@firstparishcambridge.org; Marc McGovern
Subject:	Serious business...
Date:	Friday, April 20, 2018 6:29:57 PM

Dear Craig,

Forgive me if once again I think that the Council is poised to operate outside anything like its putative mandate. The pending BDS vote smacks once again of overreach. I say this as someone with almost 3.5 years in the region on both sides of the equation who would not presume to weigh in as an expert.

Former Israeli Ambassador to America, Michael Oren, is a friend of mine. As is the Saudi Finance Minister. As are a small legion of Palestinians here and abroad. Tell me who on the Council, individually, or collectively, has spent significant time in-country/countries in recent years? I have been in Beirut, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, etc.

I was angered at Trump's pre-emptive nonsensical re-siting of our Embassy to Jerusalem. That served no strategic interest other than keeping Netanyahu out of jail. BTW, there is no way to relocate an embassy that quickly. I worked for several years on the relocation of the American Embassy in London. It took years... not months.

But this resolution is potentially a "fools' errand" for all concerned. My humble advice would be to table this resolution until rightful stakeholders show a more resolute and reasoned stance themselves.

Respectfully,

Richard Gonci

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